

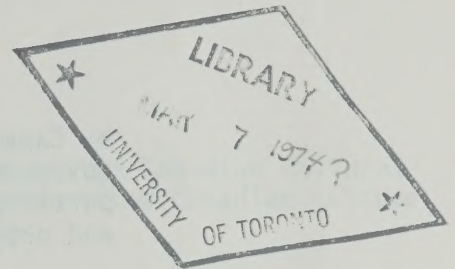


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CANADA AND "LA FRANCOPHONIE"

The term "la Francophonie" generally designates those countries that are either wholly or partly French-speaking -- i.e. the French-speaking community. In recent years, this term has also been used to designate a movement aimed at providing the French-speaking world with an organized framework and functional structures.

Because they share a common language, nearly 150 million French-speaking people throughout the world are discovering strong affinities among themselves and a cultural kinship that cuts across political, geographical, racial and religious boundaries. Naturally, this discovery has created a desire for closer ties that will result in the better use of the common heritage -- the essential object of the movement.

In Canada, the Federal Government, concerned with emphasizing the different aspects of the national character, promotes the multiplication and strengthening of these ties. As an extension of Canadian bilingualism into the international sphere, participation in the French-speaking community is today a fundamental and permanent part of Canadian policy. Of recent years, traditional relations with French-speaking countries in Europe have been complemented by the establishment of numerous ties with the French-speaking countries of the Third World. To this may be added the major role assumed by Canada in multilateral organizations such as the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, the Conference of Education Ministers and the Conference of the Ministers of Youth and Sports from French-speaking Countries. Finally, the Canadian Government supports various initiatives aimed at forming private international French-speaking associations.

The search for closer ties is not, moreover, the work of the Federal Government alone. On the bilateral level, the provinces are invited to participate in joint commissions and in setting up development-assistance programs for the Canadian Government. Quebec, the centre of French language and culture in Canada, has established exchange and co-operation programs with France under the France-Canada Cultural Agreement. At the multilateral level, since Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba have taken part with Quebec in the founding conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation and have participated in the signing of the convention

by Canada, the Federal Government has established, with the Quebec government, means of participation giving the latter the status of participating government in the Agency's institutions, activities and programs.

Bilateral Relations

France Because of its origins, Canada has always maintained close ties with Europe, especially with France and Britain. The historical and emotional bonds between Canada and France have become, during the past decade, largely a multiform co-operation whose success the future, even more than the past, is called on to guarantee.

Owing, among other things, to the Cultural Agreement of 1965, exchanges have rapidly multiplied in all areas and at all levels -- on the official or semi-public level as well as between independent and individual organizations. Co-operation between France and Canada is so diversified that it would be difficult to make a comprehensive survey of the sectors and sub-sectors, the state and semi-public organizations, the academic researchers and professionals involved. However, a brief description of some particularly significant areas may be attempted.

The structures set up to co-ordinate these programs demonstrate the flexibility required for such collaboration; a joint commission makes it possible to agree upon an action program every year and to balance efforts, whereas a certain number of *ad hoc* commissions (in the military field, for example), or committees such as the one on aid, provide for the exchange of information on a large number of matters.

In the teaching sphere, regular exchanges take place between the universities of both countries. Important efforts are being directed toward reaching an agreement on diploma equivalences. At the secondary-school level, exchange programs have been set up for language assistants. Consultation has also taken place between the Translation Bureau of the Secretariat of State and the *Conseil international de la langue française*.

Cultural co-operation is occurring in numerous other sectors, a list of which will suffice to show their diversity: audio-visual, cinema, theatre, music, entertainment, archives, historic sites, legal matters, postgraduate technical training, business law and economics.

Special mention should be made of the role of the Canadian Cultural Centre, established in Paris in 1970, in presenting Canadian culture to the French public.

A centre for the circulation of Canadian books has recently opened in Paris. Educational and commercial problems presented by French-language text-books are the subject of consultation and should be resolved with the help of the Council of Provincial Ministers of Education.

Youth exchanges are also growing, in quantity as well as quality. They are now directed towards specialized sectors such as the animation of new town and youth participation in activities concerned with ecology and the environment.

Scientific co-operation is exemplified by the joint work of French and Canadian teams in more than 60 areas. The joint construction and operation on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, of a 14-foot optical telescope -- the most notable achievement in the scientific field -- will contribute to the development of joint astronomy programs.

Belgium Canadian co-operation with Belgium, though of more recent growth, is now firmly established and, the necessary inventory having been made of areas of mutual concern, is expanding and diversifying.

In 1970, Mr. Théo Lefevre, the former Prime Minister of Belgium and Minister for the Programming of Scientific Policy, visited Canada. Largely because of his visit, and a subsequent visit to Belgium by a group of Canadian experts, an agreement on scientific, industrial and technological co-operation between the two countries was signed on April 24, 1971. As in Canada's relations with France, a joint commission exists to evaluate the progress made each year and to develop new projects.

Existing programs are concerned mainly with the computer sciences and environmental studies. In the former area, attention is currently being given to the diffusion of scientific and technological information on law and foreign trade. Co-operation in environmental studies at present affects mainly oceanography and hydrography. There is also a trend toward a much greater exchange than in the past in matters of scientific policy (methodology and organization), as well as toward scientific and technological co-operation at the international level (that is, within the international organizations and committees of which Belgium and Canada are members).

On the cultural level, Canada grants Belgium every year a dozen fellowships. Exchanges of professors take place between Belgian and Canadian universities.

A Canadian Cultural and Information Centre has been opened in Brussels, equipped with a library capable of shelving 8,000 books, a film library, a music library, and an all-purpose room for lectures, conferences, film screenings, exhibitions, etc.

French-speaking Africa Canadian co-operation with countries of French-speaking Africa has usually started with the achievement of independence by these countries. The opening during the past ten years of seven embassies in French-speaking Africa has made possible the establishment of certain programs that are already demonstrating the vitality of Canada's relations with the new nations of this part of the world. For the present, it remains within the framework of the co-operative programs administered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that these relations are given their most tangible expression.

During this decade, the amount allotted to bilateral aid for the French-speaking countries of Africa has risen from \$4 million for the fiscal year 1964-65 to some \$80 million. Compared to other areas of Canadian co-operation, this is the area of assistance that has known the greatest growth since 1968. In addition, it is estimated that 27 per cent of the funds Canada grants to multi-lateral assistance organizations (such as the World Bank Group, the UN Development Program, UNESCO) is ultimately channelled to French-speaking African countries.

In the beginning, since the partners knew little about each other, these programs suffered through dispersion. Although Canada continues to respond to the wishes of countries asking for its help, a better knowledge of Canadian resources, on the one hand, and an easing of Canadian budgetary procedures, on the other, permit better planning.

Owing to multi-year programming, spread over a five-year period, CIDA is now able to pledge up to 75 per cent of the current year's budget for subsequent years. This makes possible a complete commitment of available funds during the current year and planning of coming fund commitments. Moreover, special emphasis is now placed on regional programs encompassing several countries -- for example, the Liptako-Gourma project, which takes in Mali, Upper Volta and Niger.

This approach was particularly necessary in the case of the severely drought-stricken Sahel region. The assistance required by the six countries of this region is enormous. On the one hand, the recurrence of famine must be prevented; on the other, the economies of these countries must be rebuilt and the effects of the prolonged drought must be checked. This intervention must also be in line with the efforts of other government and private international organizations. A five-year, \$230-million program has been approved for this purpose. In the immediate future, to cope with this emergency, Canada has increased its contribution to the feeding of the Sahelian countries, improved road transportation by providing trucks and strengthened the distribution system by added technical assistance and the construction of grain-storage facilities.

Canadian teachers are leaving primary schools for secondary schools and becoming more involved in technical teaching and the training of native teachers.

Parallel to this economic co-operation, commercial and cultural relations have developed progressively. For the past few years, some embassies, especially those in Tunis and Dakar, have held cultural weeks that were attended by a large public. The most ambitious project undertaken has been the setting-up of a travelling exhibition, *Visage du Canada*, which, housed in four giant trailers, toured ten countries and visited 21 cities in French-speaking Africa from January 1970 to March 1971.

Major French-speaking Institutions

The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation

Founded in March 1970 in Niamey, Niger, and bringing together 24 countries, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation is the keystone of French-speaking international organization. Its purpose is to foster ties of co-operation among member countries in education, culture, science and technology. Without displacing the various existing types of co-operation, it is to be the expression of a new solidarity between industrialized and developing nations. Furthermore, the Agency gives aid to member states to ensure the promotion and diffusion of their respective cultures, to encourage mutual knowledge of the peoples involved, and to help in the formation of an enlightened view on the cultures represented within the Organization.

Its smooth operation is ensured by the General Conference, the Board of Directors, the Program Committee, the Administrative and Financial Committee, the Advisory Council and the Secretariat.

The General Conference, which convenes every two years, directs the Agency's activities and approves the work schedule. In the autumn of 1971, Canada played host to the Conference, which was held in Ottawa and in Quebec City. In 1973, it was held in Brussels and Liège, coinciding with the end of a series of public activities to which Liège had invited the French-speaking world.

Since this Conference, the Secretariat, which is responsible for preparing and carrying out the Agency's program and for its budgetary and financial reports, has been enlarged to five members. Mr. Dankoulodo Dan Dicko, former Minister of Education of Niger, has been appointed Secretary-General, replacing Mr. Jean-Marc Léger, the Canadian who had presided over the Agency's destinies since its inception. Another Canadian, Mr. Claude Roquet, Director-General of the Bureau of Co-ordination, Department of External Affairs, was elected to occupy one of the four positions of Associate Secretary-General.

The Advisory Council encompasses public and private international organizations, and persons known for their competence and achievement in one of the Agency's fields of activity. Three private international organizations from Canada are members of the Council: the *Association des universités partiellement ou entièrement de langue française*, the *Conseil de la Vie française en Amérique*, and the *Richelieu international*.

While it is active at the level of Agency organization, Canada also participates in all programs: the school at Bordeaux for modern management techniques and introduction to the Third World; audio-visual and teaching techniques; arts and crafts, an international centre for which was opened in Montreal in 1971; tourism; scientific and technological information, to which Canada contributes in order to develop means of rapidly disseminating information of this kind among all member countries of the Agency; development aid, whose programs are directed towards "horizontal" co-operation, by which is meant a process of bilateral exchange between developing countries; the cinema; participation in the creation of a multi-dimensional complex at Lomé, Togo, to be called "Village du Bénin"; youth exchanges, in connection with which Canada, like the other countries in the Agency, welcomes groups of young people who wish to pursue the study of a given theme.

French-speaking conferences In addition to working with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, Canada is a member of two French-speaking inter-

governmental agencies: the Conference of Education Ministers and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports.

The ministers of education of the French-speaking states of Africa and Madagascar met for the first time in Paris in 1960. Twenty-two countries are now members of the Conference, including, since 1969, Haiti, Belgium and Canada. This group aims at integrating education into the economic and social development plans of member countries. The Quebec Minister of Education presides over the Canadian delegation to the Conference, which includes representatives from Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, as well as federal advisers.

Canada also keeps in close touch with the organizations linked to this Conference: the Permanent Technical Secretariat at Dakar and the *Conseil africain et malgache pour l'Enseignement supérieur* (CAMES), at Ouagadougou.

The Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports met for the first time in Paris in December 1969, bringing together the majority of French-speaking countries of Africa, Madagascar, France, Belgium, Canada, and, later, Haiti. This Conference was the result of the desire of the participating countries to unite their efforts so as to establish a policy of youth promotion and protection at the national level. As at the Conference of Education Ministers, the Canadian delegation to annual meetings is headed by a Quebec minister and includes representatives from Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, as well as delegates of the Federal Government.

Private French-speaking Associations

Before the French-speaking movement took shape as a regrouping of wholly or partly French-speaking states within the Agency, associations already existed that were working towards establishing closer ties between their members scattered throughout many countries. Some of these associations were founded on a professional basis, such as the *Association internationale des parlementaires de langue française* (AIPLF) and the *Institut de droit d'expression française* (IDEF), whereas others, like the *Association des universités entièrement ou partiellement de langue française* (AUPELF) and the *Conseil international de la langue française* (CILF), were formed to pursue common goals.

Far from rendering their action useless, the setting-up of the Agency resulted in a revival of activity for some existing organizations and in the creation of a few new ones. The French-speaking movement is not only a concern of governments; it is also the responsibility of all people who have inherited the French language and culture.

This is why the Canadian Government gives its support to a certain number of these associations that either are of Canadian origin or have a large Canadian participation. Among the principal associations, let us mention AUPELF and FICU, CILF, IDEF, AISF, AIPLF, the *Conseil de la Vie française en Amérique* and *Richelieu international*.

In the first three cases, support is given in the form of annual subsidies. AUPELF, whose headquarters are in Montreal, was founded in 1961 as the result of the efforts of Canadian academics. It groups some 120 universities as full members and about 200 departments of French studies as associate members. The *Fonds international de coopération universitaire* (FICU) is an autonomous organization within AUPELF.

The *Conseil international de la langue française* was founded in 1967 in conjunction with the second biennial for the French language, held in Quebec City. In Canada, CILF maintains numerous contacts with *Radio-Canada*, the Translation Bureau, the *Office de la langue française* of the Province of Quebec, the University of Montreal word bank and the *Académie canadienne-française*.

As for most of the other associations, the Federal Government's involvement consists of contributions to conventions, conferences or seminars in which there is Canadian participation.

At a time when co-operation between peoples and cultures is increasing without pause, non-government international organizations take on a growing importance, and such contributions are meant as tangible encouragement for the various Canadian groups actively participating in international affairs.

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